

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 KUWAIT 001256

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY

STATE ALSO PASS USAID/W  
STATE PLEASE REPEAT TO IO COLLECTIVE  
STATE FOR PRM/ANE, EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, IO AND SA/PAB  
NSC FOR EABRAMS, SMCCORMICK, STAHR-KHELI, JDWORKEN  
USAID FOR USAID/A, DCHA/AA, DCHA/RMT, DCHA/FFP  
USAID FOR DCHA/OTI, DCHA/DG, ANE/AA  
USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA:WGARVELINK,BMCCONNELL,KFARNSWORTH USAID FOR  
ANE/AA:WCHAMBERLIN  
ROME FOR FODAG  
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH  
DOHA FOR MSHIRLEY  
ANKARA FOR AMB WRPEARSON, ECON AJSIROTIC AND DART  
AMMAN FOR USAID AND DART

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREF](#) [IZ](#) [WFP](#)

SUBJECT: TFI01: USAID/PRM DART SITUATION REPORT 1 APRIL 2003

-----  
SUMMARY  
-----

1. UNHCR has heard anecdotal reports of two to three thousand Iraqis fleeing Basrah. On 31 March, Coalition forces deemed the coastal land route to Umm Qasr a permissive environment. NGO convoys traveling to Umm Qasr will need to coordinate their movements through the HOC. On 3 March, UNICEF reported that there are no confirmed cases of cholera in As Sulaymaniyah. A 29 March rapid assessment conducted by Coalition forces reported that the population of An Nasiriyah is in need of water, baby formula, and basic medical supplies. On 30 March, a UNICEF-sponsored convoy of 14 water tankers crossed into Iraq to deliver water to residents of Safwan, Umm Qasr, and Az Zubayr. The cargo of the Sir Galahad has been fully off-loaded in Umm Qasr. On 29 March, the DART met with representatives from IOM to discuss plans to incorporate protection issues into IOM's programs. During the HOC briefing on 29 March, an update on the status of borders in the region was provided.

-----  
POPULATION DISPLACEMENTS  
-----

2. A spokesman from the Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) reported that 5,000 residents are displaced around the Az Zubayr bridge, near Basrah. Coalition forces are providing relief supplies, and the condition of the displaced persons is reported to be stable.

3. In a meeting with the DART on March 29, the Head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Kuwait office expressed concern over a lack of cooperation by the Government of Kuwait (GOK) in preparing for potential Iraqi refugees. UNHCR heard the GOK was preparing several camps for Iraqis in the border area but when the issue was raised with Kuwaiti officials, UNHCR was informed that the borders are closed and no refugees would be allowed in. UNHCR has stated that it is only willing to help establish refugee camps inside Kuwait if the borders are kept open.

4. UNHCR has heard anecdotal reports of two to three thousand Iraqis fleeing Basrah east toward the Iranian border, but has received no reports that the refugees arrived at the border. It is not known if these people returned home or are housed with extended family or friends outside the city.

-----  
SECURITY - SOUTHERN IRAQ  
-----

5. On 31 March, Coalition forces deemed the coastal land route to Umm Qasr a permissive environment. NGO convoys or relief vehicles traveling to Umm Qasr will need to coordinate their movements through the HOC. Coalition forces will inform humanitarian convoys of the area's security status and may provide escort. However, military escort will not be provided for travel to areas not cleared as safe by the Coalition.

6. On 1 April, UNSECOORD conducted a security assessment of Umm Qasr. If the findings of the security assessment are approved by U.N. Headquarters in New York, the UNSECOORD security officer will send a humanitarian assessment team to Umm Qasr on or about 2 April to begin to establish a U.N. presence in Iraq.

-----  
COALITION ASSESSMENT OF AN NASIRIYAH  
-----

7. A 29 March rapid assessment conducted by Coalition forces reported that the population of An Nasiriyah is in need of water, baby formula, and basic medical supplies. A local town leader reported that the

population has sufficient stocks of basic foods to last for eight months, but fresh meats, vegetables, and fruits are needed. Coalition forces reportedly seized the main government warehouse that stored food for the OFF program. The warehouse is reported to contain significant food stocks.

18. Iraqi forces have reportedly intimidated the local population with loudspeaker instructions to leave their homes in order to slow the Coalition advance. Individuals have also been intimidated by death threats to military-age males who refuse to fight the Coalition.

19. According to local sources, the police have fled An Nasiriyah, all the hospitals and many businesses are closed, and roads into the town are currently blocked. The An Nasiriyah Military Hospital was badly damaged, but the hospital still contains a large inventory of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. There is a limited amount of electricity and water, and there are no telephones in service.

-----  
WATER  
-----

10. On 30 March, a UNICEF-sponsored convoy of 14 water tankers crossed into Iraq to deliver water to residents of Safwan, Umm Qasr, and Az Zubayr. One additional truck, carrying 15 water bladders to the three towns, was delayed by Kuwaiti police because of a documentation problem. The HOC is working to resolve the issue with the Ministry of Interior. The DART's Military Liaison Unit (MLU) is also tracking this issue.

11. The water will be distributed by staff members at the hospitals in Umm Qasr and Az Zubayr, and by staff at the Primary Health Center in Safwan. UNICEF reports that this convoy will occur daily, and thus enable Coalition forces to use their water tankers to supply residents in towns further north that are not secure enough for civilian workers.

12. A ceremony was scheduled for 31 March to open the water pipeline from Kuwait towards Umm Qasr. The pipeline is expected to provide 2.7 million liters of water per day to southern Iraq. Coalition forces and UNICEF-sponsored convoys will provide tankers to deliver water from the pipe's outlet to southern Iraqi populations in need.

-----  
HEALTH  
-----

13. On 31 March, UNICEF reported that there are no confirmed cases of cholera in As Sulaymaniyah. UNICEF is aware of three cases of cholera in An Nasariyah in February, and reported that a few cases of cholera occur in the area each year. UNICEF provided one million sachets of oral rehydration salts to local UNICEF representative Iraq in February but has no information on how the supplies might have been distributed.

----  
FOOD  
----

14. There is no mill at the port of Umm Qasr. The closest mills are in Basrah, where there are eleven. The vacuators at Umm Qasr are able to work, but the power supply remains questionable. The DART is trying to find a person at the port who can conduct a "mega test" to measure the electrical system's capacity.

15. The cargo of the Sir Galahad has been fully off-loaded in Umm Qasr. A distribution plan was not made available through the HOC. However, on 31 March the HOC reported that the waterway into Umm Qasr Port is non-permissive for humanitarian vessels due to the recent discovery of unexploded ordinances.

-----  
NON-FOOD ITEMS  
-----

16. By 31 March, UNHCR plans to have enough non-food items stocked in the region for 300,000 people. UNHCR wanted to pre-position enough supplies in the region to handle 600,000 refugees but does not currently have the necessary funding.

-----  
PROTECTION  
-----

17. On 29 March, the DART met with representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to discuss plans to incorporate protection issues into IOM's programs. IOM will be working closely with the U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq (UNOCHI), which will take the lead on protection concerns in IDP camps.

18. UNOCHI will have five regional officers, each with a regional coordinator. UNOCHI will include an IDP protection officer in each region.

19. The DART members urged IOM to address protection concerns and ways to mitigate abuses and to develop response mechanisms at the camp level in its overall strategy and programming. The DART promised to share protection documents with IOM staff in Kuwait. IOM reported that each camp manager will be aware of protection concerns and report abuses to UNOCHI.

-----  
BORDERS  
-----

¶20. During the HOC briefing on 29 March, an update on the status of borders in the region was provided.

¶21. Between Turkey and Iraq, the Habur border crossing point (BCP) is open on Turkish side but not operating on Iraqi side. Consequently, legal trans-border transportation is not possible. The Cukurca BCP remains under military control and is closed for any civil/humanitarian activity. The borders between Turkey and Syria remain open.

¶22. Between Kuwait and Iraq, the borders of Abdaly and Umm Qasr remain officially closed, though some local NGOs have delivered supplies from Kuwait into Southern Iraq.

¶23. Between Jordan and Iraq, the Trebil BCP is open to humanitarian and commercial traffic. For humanitarian traffic, a security pass and vehicle sticker obtained in Amman from the Ministry of Interiors (MoI) is required to enter the border security zone. A separate pass obtained from the MoI in Amman is required to access refugee camps in the border area.

¶24. All borders between Iran and Iraq remain closed. The borders between Syria and Iraq are open, however, negligible commercial trans-border movement has been observed by Coalition forces.

JONES